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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Kumi Jinzenji et al. **RECEIVED**  
Serial No. : 09/667,097 MAR 20 2003  
Filed : September 21, 2000 Technology Center 2600  
Title : METHOD FOR SEPARATING BACKGROUND SPRITE  
AND FOREGROUND OBJECT AND METHOD FOR  
EXTRACTING SEGMENTATION MASK AND THE  
APPARATUS  
  
Art Unit : 2672  
Examiner : M. G. Johnson  
  
Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Date 3/19/2003 Atty's Reg. # 33,865

Atty's Signature

AARON C. DEDIFCH

RESPONSE

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on November 6, 2002 (the three-month response date for which has been extended by one month from February 6, 2003 to March 6, 2003 by the accompanying Transmittal And Petition To Extend), please reconsider the above-identified application based on the following:

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 30 are now pending.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of this response.

With respect to paragraph eight (8) of the Office Action, Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 17, 19 and 21 contain allowable subject matter. The objections as to these claims are respectfully traversed, however, since it is respectfully submitted that the claims from which they depend are allowable, as explained below.

With respect to paragraph five (5), claims 1 to 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Crinon et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,249,613.

As regards the anticipation rejection of the claims, to reject a claim under 35 U.S.C. §